

WYCOMBE moved into the thick of the Berger Isthmian League Premier Division title race with a storming victory at Woking on Tuesday night — their first away win for nearly three months.

With all their main rivals falling to shock defeats, Wycombe are just a point behind Enfield with a game in hand — and must now have a great chance of recapturing the title for the first time in six years.

Perhaps the biggest shock of the night was Slough's defeat at Boreham Wood. The Rebels may have slipped to sixth spot but they have numerous games in hand — and their two clashes with Wanderers over Christmas could decide the championship.

Wycombe had not won anywhere other than Loakes Park since they defeated Harlow at Epping back on September 20 — indeed until Tuesday that was their only away win of the season.

Cushion

But they put the record straight in no uncertain manner at Kingfield dominating the game so completely that they were four goals up with 25 minutes left.

Woking came with a late rush but the Blues comfortable cushion meant they could cruise through the closing stages without undue worry for their first victory of

By MICHAEL KNOX Woking 0, Wycombe 4

the season on an opponents home ground.

With so many away matches still to play this was a critical psychological victory for the Blues, who can now put their previous disappointing away form behind them and make a realistic challenge for the title.

With George Borg under suspension, Wycombe brought in Jim Richardson at left back. This was a nice treat for the young Scotsman, because he had played for Woking towards the end of last season when on loan from Fulham. Indeed he had played in the second leg of their F.A. Trophy semi-final with Dagenham.

Wanderers moved into their stride straight away, carrying on from where they left off against Sutton the previous Saturday — and took the lead in the seventh minute.

Dispute

Steve Long's corner from the left found Steve Hardwick unmarked in the centre of the penalty area. Hardwick headed towards goal and Terry Glynn, looking particularly sharp, turned quickly to help it on its way into the net from about three yards.

There was only one side in it during the first half. Woking, cracked by internal dispute following the departure of the chairman, looked a

dispirited bunch and even the vocal encouragement of their manager Billy Miller failed to stir them out of their lethargy.

They did not have a single serious shot on goal during the first half, as Wycombe ploughed on relentlessly. But a series of frittered chances meant that the visitors were unable to capitalise on their superiority.

The most remarkable escape came in the 35th minute, when Mick Holifield, saw three shots blocked within about ten seconds. The first struck the goalkeeper, the second hit a post and the third was cleared off the line by defender Tony Martin.

Holifield must have been tearing his hair out with frustration. But his persistence was finally rewarded just before half time when he drove the ball under goalkeeper Trevor Porter for the second goal after a weak defensive clearance.

Porter looked distinctly shaky throughout the match and two errors by him enabled Wycombe to sew the match up nice and quickly.

Pressure

Wanderers third goal owed much to the persistence and determination of Gary Toil, who challenged Porter as the goalkeeper went for a low cross. The ball broke free and fell straight into the path

of Glynn, who completed the formalities.

They kept up the pressure and made absolutely sure in the 66th minute, when Porter was unable to hold a powerful 15 yard shot by Jimmy Jacobs. Long planted the rebound into the empty net.

Woking finished strongly but the Wycombe defence, sometimes under pressure, did not wilt and so helped the side to their first league double of the season. Indeed they had beaten Woking by exactly the same margin at Loakes Park.

Now for Slough Town!

WOKING: T. Porter, S. Fuller, A. Martin, M. Black, R. Leather, L. Barrett, N. Fletcher, A. Field, A. Morton, E. Nwajobi (sub: L. Marciello 48 mins), A. Booth.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, P. Birdseye, J. Richardson (sub K. Wilson 86 mins), R. Davies, S. Hardwick, R. Dell, S. Long, J. Jacobs, T. Glynn, G. Toil, M. Holifield.

Referee: R. Smith (Middle Barton).

Half-time 0-2. Scorers: Wycombe Glynn (7 mins, 63), Holifield (45), Long (66).

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	28	14	8	6	57	32	50
Wycombe	27	14	7	6	51	30	49
Sutton	26	12	8	6	49	37	44
Harlow	26	12	6	8	45	29	42
Dagenham	28	11	9	8	53	43	42
Slough	22	11	8	3	31	20	41
Dulwich	26	10	10	6	45	37	40
Leytonstone	24	11	6	7	44	35	39
Bromley	26	10	7	9	44	44	37
Hayes	25	11	4	10	23	28	37
*Barking	31	10	8	13	41	52	36
Woking	29	10	3	16	32	47	33
Boreham Wood	24	8	8	8	33	40	32
Tooting	27	8	5	14	27	36	29
Leatherhead	29	6	11	12	21	33	29
Staines	26	7	7	12	30	37	28
Walthamstow	26	8	4	14	26	42	28
Hitchin	21	7	6	8	29	25	27
Croydon	23	5	12	6	21	21	27
Canterbury	23	8	2	13	30	47	26
Harlow	24	5	10	9	28	37	25
Hendon	23	6	7	10	30	37	25

*2 points deducted.

Formation of new league

WYCOMBE Wanderers are without a game of any sort tomorrow (Saturday) and so have an eleven day break before digesting their double dose of Slough Town over the Christmas holiday.

These two local derby matches, which attract good crowds at the worst of times, should draw even more spectators this season, as both teams are in contention for the League title.

The first of these key matches will be at Loakes Park on Saturday, December 27, while the return is at Wexham Park on New Year's day.

Both teams no doubt will receive with interest the news this week that the Southern League and the Isthmian League are to link up and form a new competition.

The competition to be known as the Southern Semi-Professional Football League, will start in the 1982/83 season, but both the existing Leagues will retain their separate identities.

The plan is for the top teams in the Isthmian and Southern Leagues at the end of next season to join this new league, which it is hoped will help to provide a non-league football pyramid.

The details have yet to be finalised, but it is expected that about two-thirds of the clubs will come from the Isthmian with the rest from the Southern. The lower clubs will obviously stay in their own leagues.

So the competition to finish in the top half of the Premier Division table is likely to add spice to next season's Isthmian campaign.



Terry Glynn, a constant source of trouble to the Sutton defence, storms into the penalty area to set up another chance for Wycombe.